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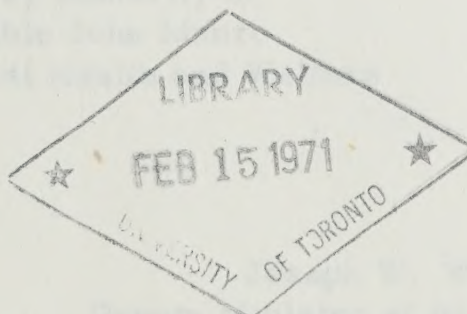


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IN CANADA,

APRIL 1961 TO APRIL 1970



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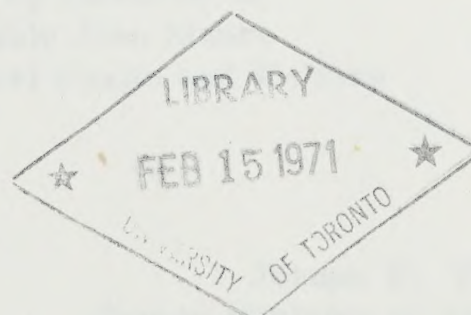
# research and statistics MEMO

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HEALTH CARE PRICE MOVEMENTS  
IN CANADA,

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Research and Statistics Directorate


Published by authority of  
the Honourable John Munro  
Minister of National Health and Welfare

J. Maurice LeClair, M. D.,  
Deputy Minister of National Health

Joseph W. Willard,  
Deputy Minister of National Welfare

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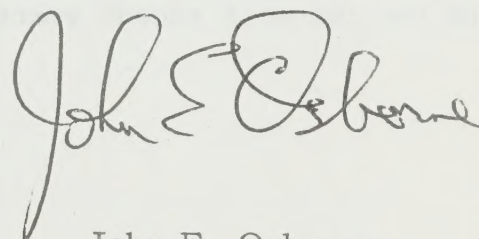
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## FOREWORD

Measurements of recent movements in the prices of health care services and products in Canada are presented in this memorandum. These are considered to be of particular interest in the light of concern for rising health care costs and of recent changes in the arrangements for the payment for health care.

The data presented were derived from surveys conducted by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and reported in its Consumer Price Index series. Additional reference is made to comparable series prepared for the Consumer Price Index of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics and to recent studies of official medical fee schedules conducted in this Department.

This memorandum was prepared in the Health Research Division of the Research and Statistics Directorate by Mr. George W. Plet under the supervision of Mr. Lothar W. Rehmer and the general direction of Mr. William A. Mennie.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John E. Osborne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

John E. Osborne,  
Director,  
Research and Statistics,

## S U M M A R Y

The prices of health care items as measured in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) have shown a generally faster rate of increase than the CPI for all items over the past nine years. Average yearly increases over the period April 1961 to April 1970 were 3.7 per cent and 2.9 per cent respectively.

Physicians' fees increased by an average annual rate of 3.7 per cent over the nine years, and by 4.8 per cent in the most recent year. The sharpest annual increase was 10.4 per cent for the twelve-month period ending April, 1967.

Dentists' fees showed the highest average annual rate of increase among health care components -- 5.5 per cent. The increase during the latest year was 6.8 per cent.

The price of optical care had the steepest increase over the last twelve months at 8.9 per cent, and an average annual rate of increase over the nine-year span of 4.6 per cent.

Pharmaceuticals (including prescribed drugs and over-the-counter preparations) showed an average annual decrease of 0.3 per cent during the nine-year period. There was a 5 per cent drop in the year ending April, 1968, when the federal sales tax was removed; there were increases in the two most recent years.



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## HEALTH CARE PRICE MOVEMENTS

Levels of health care prices, together with the composition and volume of services provided, determine the costs of health care. Price movements of Health care items surveyed in the Consumer Price Index during the period April 1961 - April 1970 are reviewed in this memorandum. It does not consider patterns of care and the complex factors which determine health care prices.

### The Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) prepared by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, measures price movements for a "market basket" of goods and services representative of those purchased during a base year by families in the medium income ranges. The general procedure is to reprice the specific items within the "basket" at regular intervals. Because no regular change is made in the distribution of items, concurrent with changes in consumer demand, the CPI is not a cost-of-living index. Further, it was designed with the purpose of indicating price movements for the entire range of consumer goods and services rather than for separate components or sub-groupings.

### The Health Care Components of the CPI

An essential characteristic of the market basket price index with respect to health care items (among numerous others) is that those increases in the prices of items which might be associated with improvements in their quality are contained in price movement measurements. Precise allowances for this would require the introduction of some criterion attempting to measure changes in the health creating or improving effects of specific services. Both quality and cost changes resulting from shifts in the mix of goods and services are beyond the

scope of measurement of the CPI. Thus, for example, while improvements in drug therapy may occur through the introduction of new drugs, the effects on average prescription prices of their introduction are not reflected in the CPI measurement.

Health care items included in the CPI<sup>(1)</sup> are limited for various practical reasons to a somewhat narrower range of services and goods than might be considered desirable for a study in depth of price movements in health care. Physicians' services surveyed include general practitioners' home and office visits, obstetrical care and appendectomies. Several major service groupings such as hospital visits, anaesthesia, radiology, other diagnostic and therapeutic procedures and specialists' consultations are not represented in the index. Dentists' services include extractions, fillings, dentures and prophylaxis. Pharmaceuticals are priced under the headings of prescriptions and a range of over-the-counter preparations. Hospital rates were included in the health care component of the CPI prior to 1961. They were excluded in 1961 and later years because public hospital insurance plans had come into operation in all provinces.

Of major importance in considering movements during the latest year in the CPI sub-index for health care (total), are reductions in weighting assigned to physicians' fees and to prepaid medical care following the implementation of public medical insurance plans in most provinces. The impact of indexes for physicians' fees and for prepaid

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(1) See description of CPI health care components on page 10.



medical care on the total health care index was considerably reduced, as of October 1969, and the rates surveyed in October, 1969 and April, 1970 pertain only to those provinces without public medical insurance plans.

#### Health Care Price Movements in Canada

During the 12 month period ending April 1970 the CPI increased by 4.1 per cent. The price component for health care showed an increase of 3.9, atypically falling below the CPI increase. The average annual rate of growth of the CPI over the period under review was 2.9 per cent and that for health care, 3.7 per cent (Table 2).

On the other hand, the average rate of increase in health care prices fell below the rise in the prices of all services. The average annual rates of increase for all services and health care over the period from 1961 to 1970 were 4.5 per cent and 3.7 per cent respectively. For the year ending April 1970, prices of all services increased by 5.0 per cent in comparison to 3.9 per cent for health care. The difference is largely attributable to the fact that the drugs component of the health care prices index, i.e., the component which registered the lowest increases, is excluded from the index for all services.

Because revisions of professional fee schedules tend to occur at uneven intervals, trends in the movement of fees and of health care prices in general can best be viewed with the aid of moving averages (Table 3). When seen as a three-year moving average, movements in the CPI sub-index for health care showed a general trend towards higher increases up to the year ending April, 1969, and decreased during the subsequent year. This occurred also for the index for all services. In the meantime, the CPI, all items, three-year moving average continued to rise throughout the period.

The three-year moving average for health care increased from 1.9 per cent for the period ending April 1962 to 4.7 per cent for that ending April 1970, reaching a high of 5.3 per cent for April 1969. Over the same span the average for the CPI index for all items rose from 1.3 per cent to 4.3 per cent while that for all services increased from 2.4 per cent to 5.5 per cent.

#### Physicians' Fees

Physicians' fees showed an increase of 4.8 per cent in the year ending April 1970 and an average annual rate of growth of 3.7 per cent (the same as for total health care) over the nine year period (Table 2). The sharpest rise in physicians' fees, 10.4 per cent, occurred in the twelve month period ending April 1967. The three-year moving average increased steadily up to the period ending April 1969, and then showed a decline.

Office calls contributed in greatest measure to the overall increase in physicians' fees. They rose at an average annual rate of 4.5 per cent from 1961 to 1970. Home calls showed the next steepest rise, 4.2 per cent. Appendectomy, the single item representing surgical procedures, showed an average annual increase of 0.9 per cent during the nine-year period.

The measured increase in the CPI index for physicians' fees from April 1969 to April 1970 pertains to three provinces only; Quebec, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, i.e. those without public medical insurance plans in operation during the period. Tabled below are measured increases in official provincial medical association fee schedule rates occurring from January 1969 to April 1970. The average increase in those provinces with fee schedules in force was 6.4 per cent during that period.



PERCENTAGE INCREASES IN OFFICIAL PROVINCIAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
FEE SCHEDULES (a), JANUARY 1969 TO APRIL  
1970

Province	Per Cent Increase	Month
New Brunswick	10.5	January, 1969
British Columbia	6.8	January, 1969
Ontario	9.0	April, 1969
Alberta	6.3	August, 1969
Prince Edward Island	14.1	January, 1970
Average Increase (Five Provinces)	8.4	January 1, 1969 to April 1, 1970
Average Increase (Nine Provinces) (b)	6.4	January 1, 1969 to April 1, 1970

(a) Fee increases measured here do not necessarily correspond to increases in effective prices. These may be modified by such factors as differences in actual billing rates in provinces where listed rates do not limit total amounts charged for services, and in assessment rates where amounts paid by public insuring agencies differ somewhat from those set out in fee schedules.

(b) Weighted according to population. Quebec is excluded from the measurement because no official fee schedule has been in use in recent years for general practitioners' services.

SOURCE: Department of National Health and Welfare, unpublished statistics.

Dentists' Fees

The rise in dentists' fees which occurred during the year ending April 1970 was 6.8 per cent compared to an average annual rate of increase of 5.5 per cent, the steepest general increase among the health care components indexed over the period under review. The three-year moving average showed a general rising trend throughout the nine-year period.

Major service groupings contributing to this average annual rate of increase were, in descending order, extractions at 6.3 per cent; fillings at 5.9 per cent; prophylaxis at 5.3 per cent; and dentures at 4.4 per cent. The highest increase in dental fees during the nine-year period was recorded in the twelve month period ending April 1968 when the percentage rise was 9.5 per cent.

#### Optical Care Prices

The composite prices of optical care moved upward by 8.9 per cent in the year ending April 1970, the highest rate of increase among health care components for the year, and the sharpest rise in optical care throughout the nine-year period April 1961 to April 1970. The average annual rate of growth during the period was 4.6 per cent. The three-year moving average showed no consistent trend over the nine-year span although recording the highest rate of increase during the latest twelve month period.

#### Prepaid Medical Care Prices

Shifts in prices for prepaid medical care were more sporadic than for other items of health care in the CPI. No change was recorded in the index over the twelve month period ending April 1970 (for the three provinces surveyed in that year), while the highest increase during the period, 11.5 per cent, was reported for the previous year. The average annual rate of rise over the entire nine-year period was 4.8 per cent. The three year moving average showed generally high rates of increase.

#### Pharmaceutical Prices

The sub-index for pharmaceuticals increased by 1.1 per cent over the year ending April 1970, being, together with the previous year's rise, also 1.1 per cent, the highest over the period. An average annual



decline of 0.3 per cent was recorded for the nine-year span. Pharmaceuticals showed no consistent trend in rates of increase over the period under review.

The CPI sub-index for prescriptions continued to move upwards during the last two twelve month periods of the term under review after showing a decline of 4.9 per cent in the year ending April 1968. This drop followed removal of the federal 12 per cent sales tax on drugs, effective August 1967. Over the nine-year period prescriptions showed an average yearly decline of 0.7 per cent.

Among over-the-counter drugs and preparations, changes for the latest twelve month period ranged from a high of 6.3 per cent for ointment to a low of -1.1 per cent for headache tablets. Over the entire period under review laxatives had the highest average annual rate of increase at 1.9 per cent with vitamins showing the greatest decrease, averaging 2.2 per cent.

While no important general increase has occurred for the surveyed pharmaceutical products, it must be emphasized that the effects of the price levels of newly introduced prescription drugs are excluded from these measurements. As mentioned, these would be reflected in an index for average prescription prices.

#### Hospital Rates

Hospital costs per patient day over the period 1961 to 1968 increased by an average of 10.0 per cent per year and are tabled below for the years from 1961 to 1968. Costs per patient day do not necessarily coincide with daily rates that were measured by the CPI prior to 1961.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Cost Per Patient Day*</u>	<u>Per Cent Increase</u>
1961	\$ 23.10	8.3
1962	24.82	7.4
1963	26.87	8.3
1964	29.18	8.6
1965	31.92	9.4
1966	36.00	12.8
1967	40.38	12.2
1968	44.88	11.1

\* Public general and allied special hospitals.

#### Health Care Price Movements in Canada and the United States Compared

Essential differences in groups of items surveyed complicate comparisons between health care price movements in Canada and the United States. The most notable distinction in content of the indices for all health care relates to hospital charges and prepaid hospital insurance. These are included throughout in the United States series but were removed from the Canadian CPI in 1961. Other differences relate to the coverage of a somewhat broader range of physicians' surgical and specialist services in the United States index.

Physicians' office calls showed slightly higher increases in Canada than in the United States over the period December 1966 to December 1969 (Table 4). Office calls increased at an average annual rate of 7.0 per cent in Canada in comparison to 6.8 in the United States. Home calls rose at a rate of 6.6 per cent in the United States as compared to 6.5 per cent in Canada. On the other hand, obstetrical care showed a substantially higher increase in the United States where the

average increase was 6.7 per cent in comparison to 4.7 per cent in Canada. The composite index for physicians' fees, as shown in Table 4, is not strictly comparable for reasons given above.

Fees charged for dental care and for optical care showed significantly steeper rises in Canada than in the United States. The index for dentists' fees in Canada rose at an average annual rate of 7.3 per cent in Canada during the period in contrast to 5.9 per cent in the United States. The corresponding rise for optical care was 5.4 per cent in Canada and 4.1 per cent in the United States. Differences in the respective compositions of the items are not substantial.

The price index for all pharmaceuticals increased at an average rate of 0.4 per cent in the United States while showing a decline of 1.8 per cent in Canada. Movements in the prices of prescribed drugs indexed were, on the average, slightly downward in both countries.

#### DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

##### CPI, All Services

This sub-index represents services with and services without commodity content. Services with commodity content are comprised of dental care, optical care, shoe repair, auto repairs and lubrication, and television repairs. Services without commodity content are household help, laundry and dry cleaning, telephone, household and auto insurance, prepaid medical care, physicians' services, theatres and sporting events, postage, local transportation and travel, and haircuts and hairdressing. Shelter is excluded from this index. All health care items except pharmaceuticals are included.



## Health Care

Health care items are normally surveyed during selected months and not each month, although exceptions are made during periods of particular interest. For example, items under the sub-groupings physicians' fees, dentists' fees, optical care and prepaid medical care are routinely surveyed in April and October of each year and pharmaceuticals are priced in February, May, August and November. Continuous monthly pricing of the latter was commenced in August, 1967 for the remainder of that year.

Physicians' services priced in the CPI include general practitioners' first office visits for a new illness and subsequent office visits; ordinary day house calls -- first and subsequent visits; obstetrical care (confinements) including charges for pre-natal care, delivery without complication, and post-natal care; and appendectomy without complication (adult rate).

Dentists' services priced included a simple extraction; a complete set of dentures (plastic, acrylic resin); prophylaxis (scaling and polishing); silver amalgam filling, two surfaces; and silicate filling.

Optical care covers the total fee based on routine professional services of optometrists including pathology, refraction, diagnosis, prescription, fitting, lenses, frame and case.

Prepaid medical care is priced as the monthly premium rate charged by a non-profit plan for medical and surgical care to a family of four persons (two adults and two children).

Prescription drugs are priced under seven end-use categories for each of which is assigned one or more generically described drugs. Pharmacists report the price for a standard quantity of their largest selling drug product under each generic description. Categories of drugs priced are: anti-infective agents; anti-obesity agents; psychotherapeutic agents; analgesics; sedatives and hypnotiques; cardiovasculars; and hormones.

Over-the-counter drugs and preparations are surveyed under seven descriptive classes; laxative, antiseptic, headache tablets, vitamins, ointment, cough medicine and bandages. A range of alternative brand name products is represented for each of these items.

TABLE 1

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX AND HEALTH CARE COMPONENTS, CANADA, APRIL 1961 TO APRIL 1970  
(1961 equals 100.0)

	Price Index April 1961 to April 1970									
	April 1961	April 1962	April 1963	April 1964	April 1965	April 1966	April 1967	April 1968	April 1969	April 1970
CPI, all items	99.9	100.9	102.4	104.5	106.6	110.8	114.4	119.3	124.6	129.7
CPI, all services	99.4	101.7	103.8	107.7	113.4	118.5	126.4	131.3	141.3	148.3
Health care, total	100.4	101.9	105.1	107.5	113.3	115.0	121.6	126.9	134.3	139.6
Physicians' fees	100.2	103.0	104.7	107.3	110.5	112.5	124.2	127.9	132.6	139.0
Office call	100.3	102.9	104.4	108.3	112.0	114.6	131.9	136.1	141.9	149.6
Home call	100.3	106.7	109.7	111.2	113.9	116.7	128.4	134.6	140.2	144.7
Confinement	100.4	103.6	106.1	110.3	115.9	117.7	125.6	128.8	136.2	143.1
Appendectomy	100.0	100.5	100.7	101.2	102.4	102.6	103.0	103.7	103.9	108.2
Dentists' fees	100.1	102.6	110.3	113.4	118.3	126.0	131.9	144.4	152.0	162.3
Fillings	100.2	102.7	110.7	113.8	118.9	127.8	132.5	146.3	155.2	167.4
Dentures	99.9	101.4	108.8	110.8	115.1	119.6	124.3	134.5	140.7	146.5
Extractions	100.1	103.8	112.3	116.6	121.6	131.5	141.1	153.8	160.7	173.7
Prophylaxis	100.2	103.4	108.4	112.5	116.9	124.3	131.7	144.8	152.2	159.5
Optical care	100.0	103.8	111.0	113.9	116.6	120.8	125.4	132.1	137.5	149.7
Prepaid medical care	100.1	100.5	106.9	109.8	124.5	122.6	126.9	137.3	153.1	153.1
Pharmaceuticals	101.3	100.7	97.9	98.0	98.4	98.4	101.1	96.0	97.1	98.2
Laxative	98.4	98.7	100.5	103.3	104.9	106.9	117.6	111.1	115.1	116.2
Antiseptic	98.9	101.9	102.0	101.9	102.6	104.5	107.4	106.1	105.6	109.8
Headache tablets	99.4	100.3	98.3	95.3	100.2	102.9	104.5	96.9	97.5	96.4
Vitamins	100.1	98.7	94.3	92.3	92.6	90.0	89.9	83.6	82.3	82.2
Ointment	99.5	100.8	101.0	101.3	106.8	109.3	112.9	106.4	108.9	115.8
Cough medicine	99.5	100.8	100.7	106.7	109.9	107.9	115.4	110.6	112.6	117.0
Bandages	99.6	101.2	100.9	101.5	102.0	102.8	102.5	98.8	107.0	109.2
Prescriptions	102.5	101.2	97.5	97.3	96.6	96.8	99.4	94.5	95.2	95.8

SOURCE: Dominion Bureau of Statistics, published and unpublished statistics.



TABLE 2

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX AND HEALTH CARE COMPONENTS, CANADA,  
APRIL 1962 TO APRIL 1970

	Percentage Change Over Year Ending									Average Annual Per Cent Change
	April 1962	April 1963	April 1964	April 1965	April 1966	April 1967	April 1968	April 1969	April 1970	
CPI, all items	1.0	1.5	2.1	2.0	3.9	3.2	4.3	4.4	4.1	2.9
CPI, all services	2.3	2.1	3.8	5.3	4.5	6.7	3.9	7.6	5.0	4.5
Health care, total	1.5	3.1	2.3	5.4	1.5	5.7	4.4	5.8	3.9	3.7
Physicians' fees	2.8	1.7	2.5	3.0	1.8	10.4	3.0	3.7	4.8	3.7
Office call	2.6	1.5	3.7	3.4	2.3	15.1	3.2	4.3	5.4	4.5
Home call	6.4	2.8	1.4	2.4	2.5	10.0	4.8	4.2	3.2	4.2
Confinement	3.2	2.4	4.0	5.1	1.6	6.7	2.5	5.7	5.1	4.0
Appendectomy	0.5	0.2	0.5	1.2	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.2	4.1	0.9
Dentists' fees	2.5	7.5	2.8	4.3	6.5	4.7	9.5	5.3	6.8	5.5
Fillings	2.5	7.8	2.8	4.5	7.5	3.7	10.4	6.1	7.9	5.9
Dentures	1.5	7.3	1.8	3.9	3.9	3.9	8.2	4.6	4.1	4.4
Extractions	3.7	8.2	3.8	4.3	8.1	7.3	9.0	4.5	8.1	6.3
Prophylaxis	3.2	4.8	3.8	3.9	6.3	6.0	9.9	5.1	4.8	5.3
Optical care	3.8	6.9	2.6	2.4	3.6	3.8	5.3	4.1	8.9	4.6
Prepaid medical care	0.4	6.4	2.7	13.4	-1.5	3.5	8.2	11.5	--	4.8
Pharmaceuticals	-0.6	-2.8	0.1	0.4	--	2.7	-5.0	1.1	1.1	-0.3
Laxative	0.3	1.8	2.8	1.5	1.9	10.0	-5.5	3.6	1.0	1.9
Antiseptic	3.0	0.1	-0.1	0.7	1.9	2.8	-1.2	-0.5	4.0	1.2
Headache tablets	0.9	-2.0	-3.1	5.1	2.7	1.6	-7.3	0.6	-1.1	-0.3
Vitamins	-1.4	-4.5	-2.1	0.3	-2.8	-0.1	-7.0	-1.6	-0.1	-2.2
Ointment	1.3	0.2	0.3	5.4	2.3	3.3	-5.8	2.3	6.3	1.7
Cough medicine	1.3	-0.1	6.0	3.0	-1.8	7.0	-4.2	1.8	3.9	1.8
Bandages	1.6	-0.3	0.6	0.5	0.8	-0.3	-3.6	8.3	2.1	1.0
Prescriptions	-1.3	-3.7	-0.2	-0.7	0.2	2.7	-4.9	0.7	0.6	-0.7

SOURCE: Table 1

TABLE 3

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX AND HEALTH CARE COMPONENTS  
EXPRESSED AS A THREE-YEAR MOVING AVERAGE, CANADA,  
APRIL 1962 TO APRIL 1970

	Percentage Change for Year Ending, Expressed as a 3 Year Moving Average								
	April 1962	April 1963	April 1964	April 1965	April 1966	April 1967	April 1968	April 1969	April 1970
CPI, all items	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.9	2.7	3.0	3.8	4.0	4.3
CPI, all services	2.4	2.2	2.7	3.7	4.5	5.5	5.0	6.1	5.5
Health care, total	1.9	1.8	2.3	3.6	3.1	4.2	3.9	5.3	4.7
Physicians' fees	2.0	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.4	5.1	5.1	5.7	3.8
Office Call	1.8	2.1	2.6	2.9	3.1	6.9	6.9	7.5	4.3
Home Call	3.5	3.6	3.5	2.2	2.1	5.0	5.8	6.3	4.1
Confinement	3.3	3.0	3.2	3.8	3.6	4.5	3.6	5.0	4.4
Appendectomy	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.4	1.7
Dentists' fees	2.9	4.1	4.3	4.9	4.5	5.2	6.9	6.5	7.2
Fillings	3.5	4.2	4.4	5.0	4.9	5.2	7.2	6.7	8.1
Dentures	1.8	3.3	3.5	4.3	3.2	3.9	5.3	5.6	5.6
Extractions	3.3	4.9	5.2	5.4	5.4	6.6	8.1	6.9	7.2
Prophylaxis	3.2	4.1	3.9	4.2	4.7	5.4	7.4	7.0	6.6
Optical care	2.4	4.1	4.4	4.0	2.9	3.3	4.2	4.4	6.1
Prepaid medical care	1.8	3.1	3.2	7.5	4.9	5.1	3.4	7.7	6.6
Pharmaceuticals	0.6	-2.1	-1.1	-0.8	0.2	1.0	0.8	-0.4	-0.9
Laxative	3.2	0.5	1.6	2.0	2.1	4.5	2.1	2.7	-0.3
Antiseptic	2.2	2.1	1.0	0.2	0.8	1.8	1.2	0.4	0.8
Headache tablets	5.0	1.2	-1.4	0.0	1.6	3.1	-1.0	-1.7	-2.6
Vitamins	-0.3	-1.9	-2.7	-2.1	-1.5	-0.9	-3.3	-2.9	-2.9
Ointment	3.4	1.0	0.6	2.0	2.7	3.7	-0.1	-0.1	0.9
Cough Medicine	2.8	1.9	2.4	3.0	2.4	2.7	0.3	1.5	0.5
Bandages	3.6	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.3	-1.0	1.5	2.3
Prescriptions	-2.3	-5.1	-1.7	-1.5	-0.4	0.7	-0.7	-0.5	-1.2

SOURCE: Table 1, and comparable series for earlier years.

TABLE 4

PERCENTAGE CHANGES FOR SELECTED HEALTH CARE COMPONENTS OF THE  
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, FOR TWELVE MONTH PERIODS ENDING  
DECEMBER, CANADA AND U.S.A., 1967 TO 1969

	Canada				U.S.A.			
	1967	1968	1969	Average Annual Per Cent Change	1967	1968	1969	Average Annual Per Cent Change
CPI, all items	3.6	4.2	4.4	4.1	3.1	4.7	6.1	4.6
CPI, all services	6.8	3.7	7.8	6.1	3.9	6.1	7.4	5.8
Physicians' fees	10.9	1.4	4.3	5.5	6.1	5.7	7.3	6.4
Office call	15.5	1.3	4.7	7.0	7.1	5.5	7.9	6.8
Home call	11.3	2.4	6.0	6.5	5.4	7.7	6.8	6.6
Obstetrical care	6.2	1.9	6.0	4.7	5.6	6.2	8.5	6.7
Dentists' fees	4.9	10.4	6.8	7.3	5.1	5.0	7.5	5.9
Optical care	4.3	6.4	5.4	5.4	4.2	3.2	4.9	4.1
Pharmaceuticals (total)	- 3.2	- 0.3	1.1	- 1.8	- 0.2	0.4	1.1	0.4
Prescriptions	- 4.3	0.5	0.7	- 2.3	- 2.1	- 0.9	1.7	- 1.0

SOURCE: Consumer Price Index, Bureau of Labour Statistics, United States, and  
Consumer Price Index, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Canada









